

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 07, 2023

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Green

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Young** called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Allgood** made a motion to approve the minutes from March 2, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Young** made an unanimous consent request to remove **RS 30555** and **H 273** from the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**RS 30571:** **Rep. Sauter** presented **RS 30571**, proposed legislation to prohibit electioneering and establishing boundaries at polling places.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 30571**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 30563:** **Rep. Price** presented **RS 30563**, proposed legislation to repeal Article IX, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho ("The Blaine Amendment"). Rep. Price stated Article IX, Section 5 restricts sectarian appropriations.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30563**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 30559:** **Rep. Alfieri** presented **RS 30559**, proposed legislation allowing the State Board of Education be elected to represent seven zones across the state and allowing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to serve as chairman of the board.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 30559**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 259:** **Rep. Andrus** presented **H 259**, legislation prohibiting the distribution of absentee ballots or applications unless they are an election official.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Allgood** made a motion to send **H 259** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Kendal Shaber** testified in **opposition** of **H 259**, stating she has a lot of experience distributing absentee ballots through the League of Women voters and her county's elections office. Ms. Shaber remarked there are citizens who don't have the ability to request a ballot because of health or living conditions and the League of Women voters assists them.

**Jason Lehosit**, Deputy Policy Director, Idaho Secretary of State, testified in **opposition** of **H 259**, stating this legislation establishes unneeded red tape and regulation and the Secretary of State's office is confident in the existing process.

**Kathy Dawes** testified in opposition of **H 259**, stating she has participated in many events to assist students in voting and college students are especially in need of voting assistance and obtaining an absentee ballot.

In opposition of the motion, **Rep. Barbieri** stated something needs to be done but he doesn't believe **H 259** addresses the correct concerns. **Rep. Gannon** stated this legislation restricts access to a form.

In support of the motion, **Rep. Crane (13)** stated, the Legislature shouldn't wait until there are multiple instances of fraud and instead look at others states and learn from the problems they are experiencing because a strong potential of fraud exists in the absentee ballot process. **Rep. Alfieri** remarked he had multiple constituents inform him they were unable to vote because they were told at the polls they had already voted via absentee ballot and those constituents were left not knowing what their options for voting were.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:**

**Chairman Young** called for a vote on the original motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Barbieri, Skaug** and **Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 A.M.

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Representative Young  
Chair

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Lisa Hendricks  
Secretary